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Press Advisory

Office of Research and Development
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Advances in Mercury Monitoring Shown at Technology Field Day

Research Triangle Park, NC....The news media are invited to attend a "Technology Field Day" for federal and state representatives and other stakeholders interested in learning about ne , commercially-read , mercury monitors that will undergo a two-week performance test by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and Battelle, a partner. The event will be held from 9 a.m. to Noon, Friday, January 12, 2001, at the EPA Environmental Research Center, 86 T.W. Alexander Drive, Research Triangle Park, NC.

These Continuous Emission Monitors – the first of their kind – are designed to measure mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants on a continuous basis, providing real-time emissions data that can be used by utilit companies in making technology selections. Mercury monitors may have greater significance in light of EPA's recent decision to require coal-fired power plants to reduce mercury emissions. The test will evaluate the performance of the mercury monitors by comparing them to reference measurements developed by EPA.

On Dec. 14, EPA announced it will require reductions of mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants, the largest source of such emissions in America, after determining such emissions pose significant hazards to public health. Exposure to mercury has been associated with both neurological and developmental damage in humans. People are exposed to mercury primarily through eating fish that have been contaminated when mercury fro power plants and other sources is deposited into water bodies

Verification testing by Battelle will be done at a combustion incinerator that simulates both coal-fired power plant and hazardous and municipal waste facility emissions at EPA's National Risk Management Research Laboratory, a part of the Office of Research and Development. The testing is an activity of the EPA's Environmental Technology Verification Program, established to accelerate private sector acceptance and use o improved, cost-effective environmental technologies through third-party verification testing of the technology's performance. erification provides credible performance data on environmental technologies to the public, but does not certify or approve technologies.

This verification test is also being supported by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, its Executive Of fice of Environmental Affairs and Department of Environmental Protection.

An overview will be provided at 9 a.m. prior to a tour of the monitors in the combustion research facilit . To attend this event, please contact Ann Brown, Office of Research and Development Public Affairs, 919-541-7818.

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